

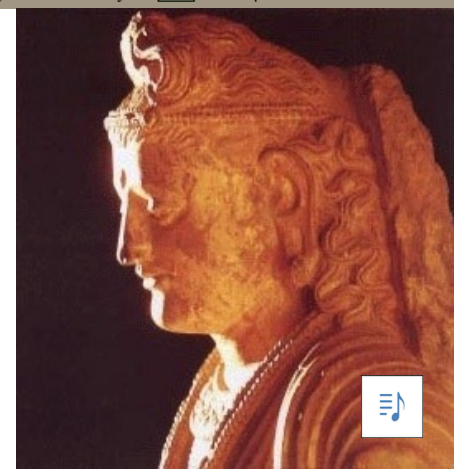


ANCIENT ASIA:: HIS 21

ANCIENT India



To accompany
A History of Asia
 Chapter 4, *The Civilization of Ancient India.*



Asia: India, China and SE Asia





North India circa 500 BCE



1000-500 BCE: Consolidation of small village societies into **TRIBAL REPUBLICS**;

Reemergence of Urban Civilization

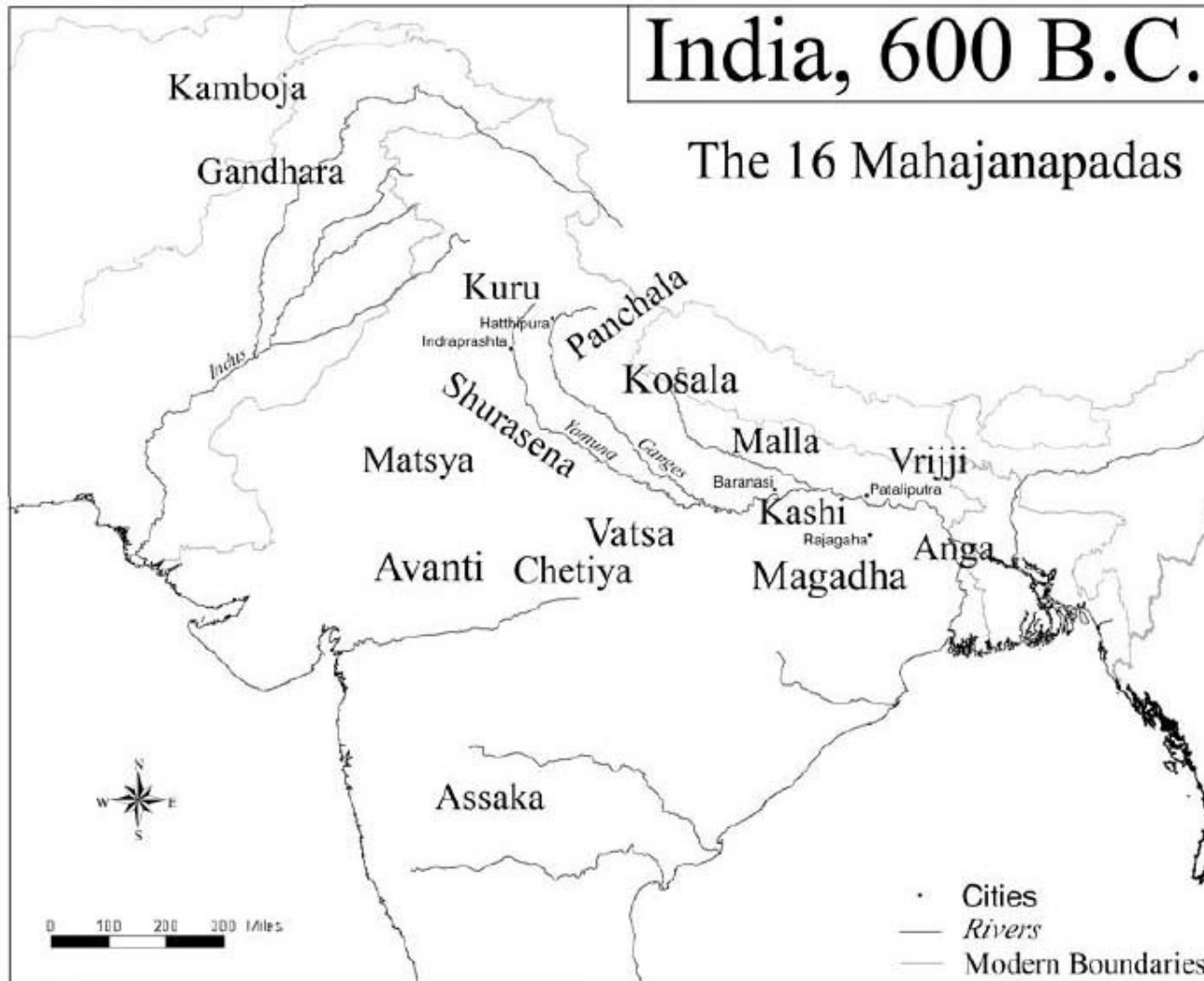
- Though the post-Indus, Aryan society had been small-scale and village-based, eventually, India began to return to large-scale urban civilization
- Smaller states merged into larger kingdoms, leading to the 16 Mahajanapada, also called “tribal
- These 16 states were quasi-democratic, with tribal assemblies and a governing council advising their kings
- This illustrates that the common idea that Greeks “invented” democracy is incorrect; the word *democracy* is indeed Greek, but others had democratic practices too



The 16 Tribal Republics in THE pre-Alexander, pre-Mauryan period. In these societies, kings were advised by tribal councils, a quasi-democracy.



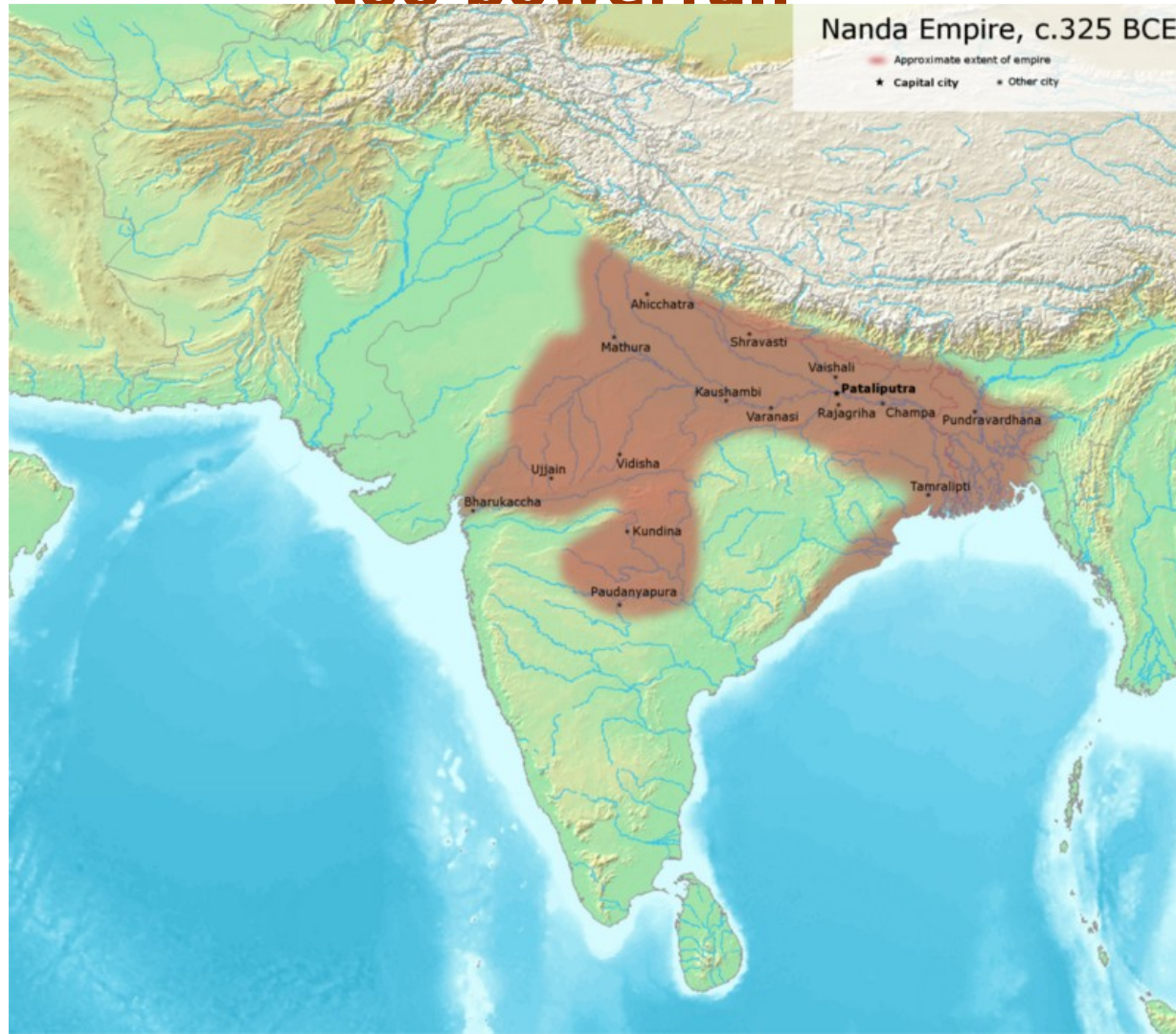
Alternate view of the 16 Mahajanapadas



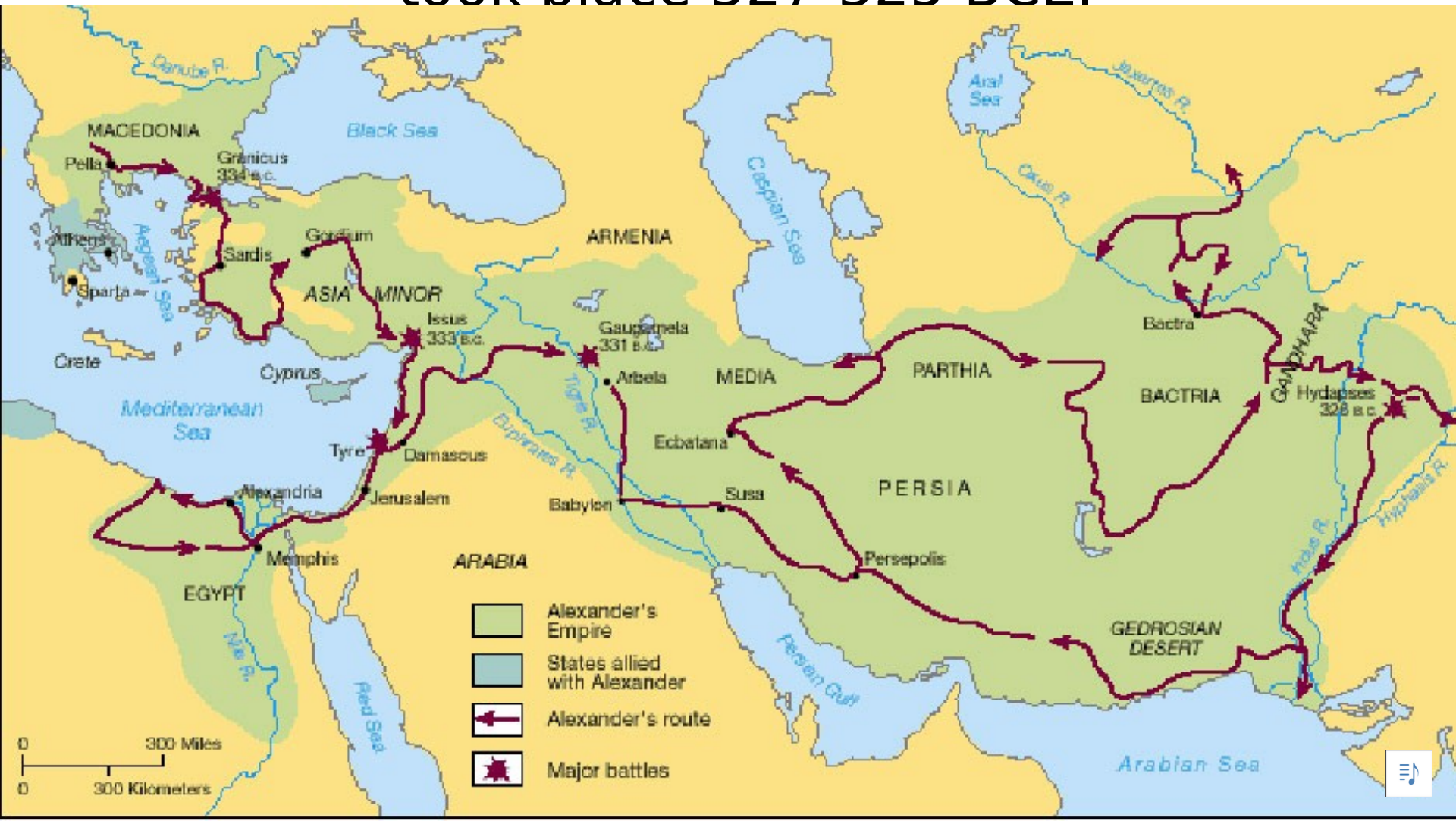
Magadha Kingdom, one of the most powerful Mahajanapada, eventually conquered by Nanda Empire, conquered in turn by the Mauryan Empire



Nanda Empire, which conquered Magadha just prior to Alexander's push into India. Alexander's soldiers rebelled rather than fight Nanda. **It was too powerful.**



Alexander the Great's empire,
reaching to the EDGE of India, where he
stopped & turned back. His India campaign
took place 327-325 BCE.



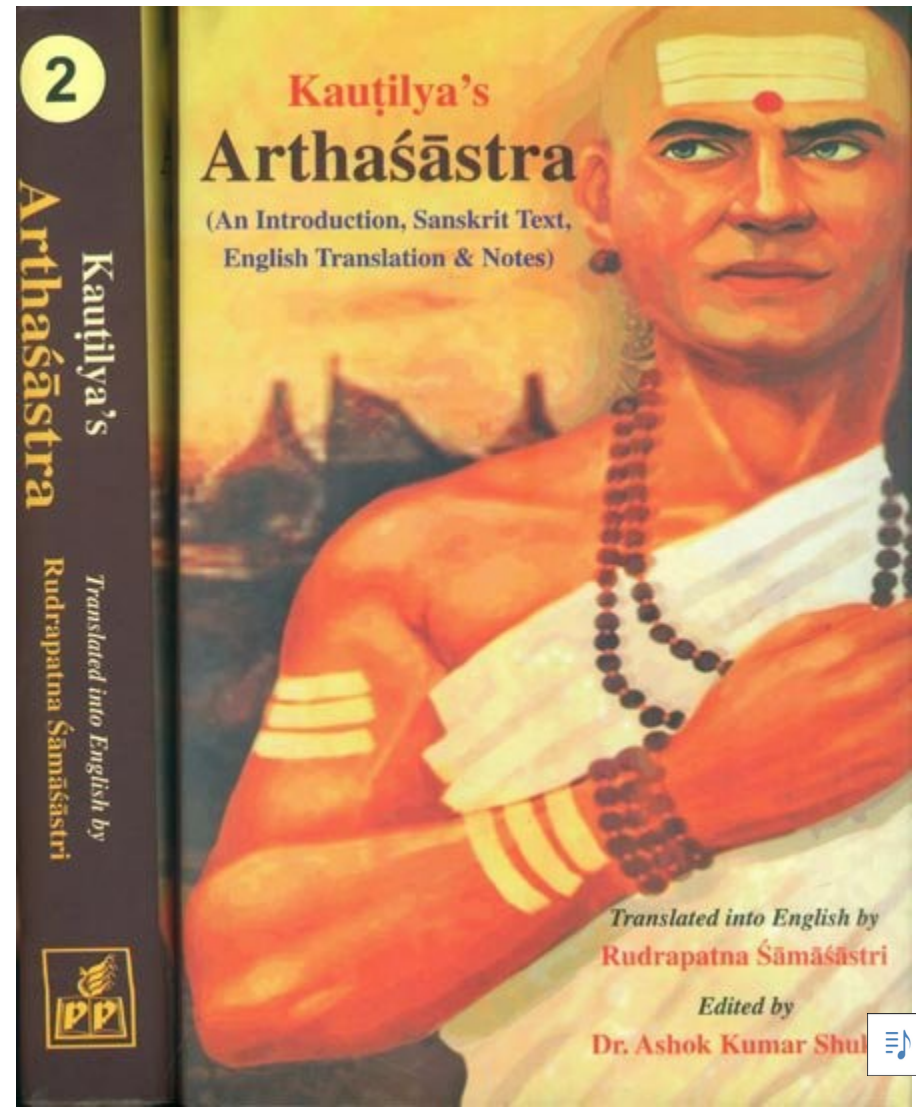
AFTER ALEXANDER... Chandragupta Maurya, founder of the Mauryan Empire

- **Life:** 340-297 BCE
- **Reign:** 321-298 BCE
- **Place of Birth:** Pataliputra
- Chandragupta lived during period of Greek conquest of NW India and may have been inspired by Alexander's example.
- Following Greek retreat in 323, C. went to war, conquered Nanda kingdom in 321, also other lands, establishing
- His huge army, military successes and vast empire shows that India was more than just a “spiritual” land of yoga and chanting

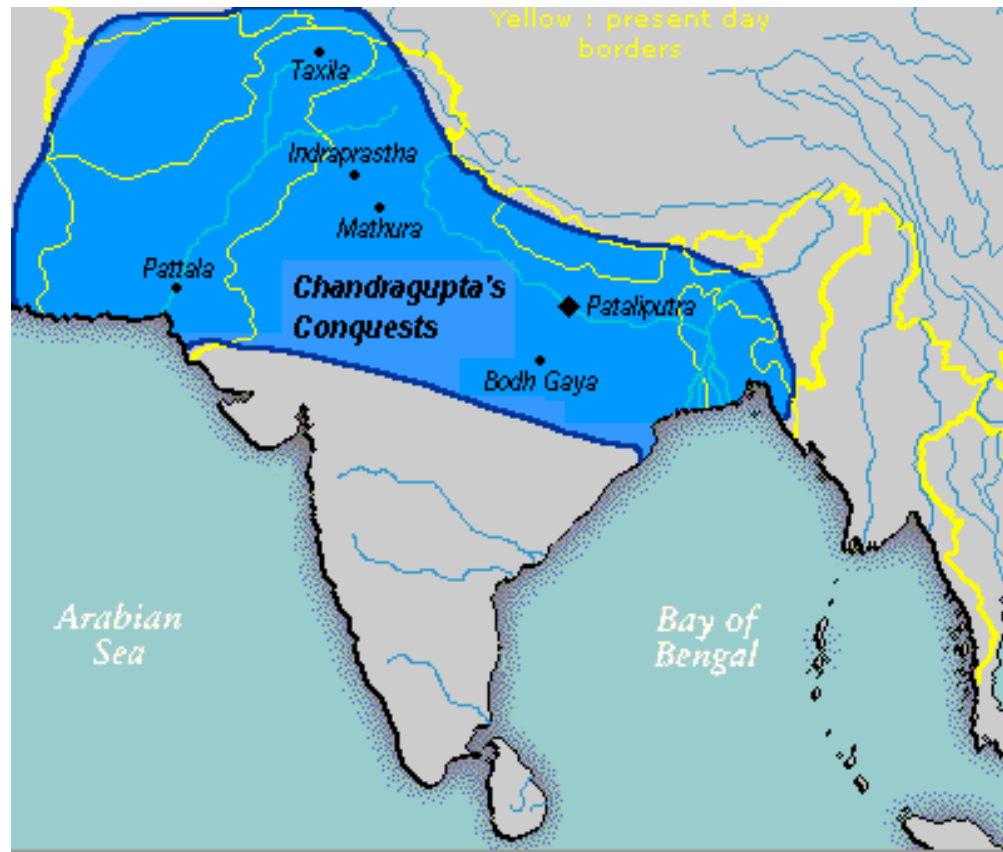


Chandragupta's adviser, the political philosopher **Chanakya**, aKA **Kautilya**, **author of the arthashastra**

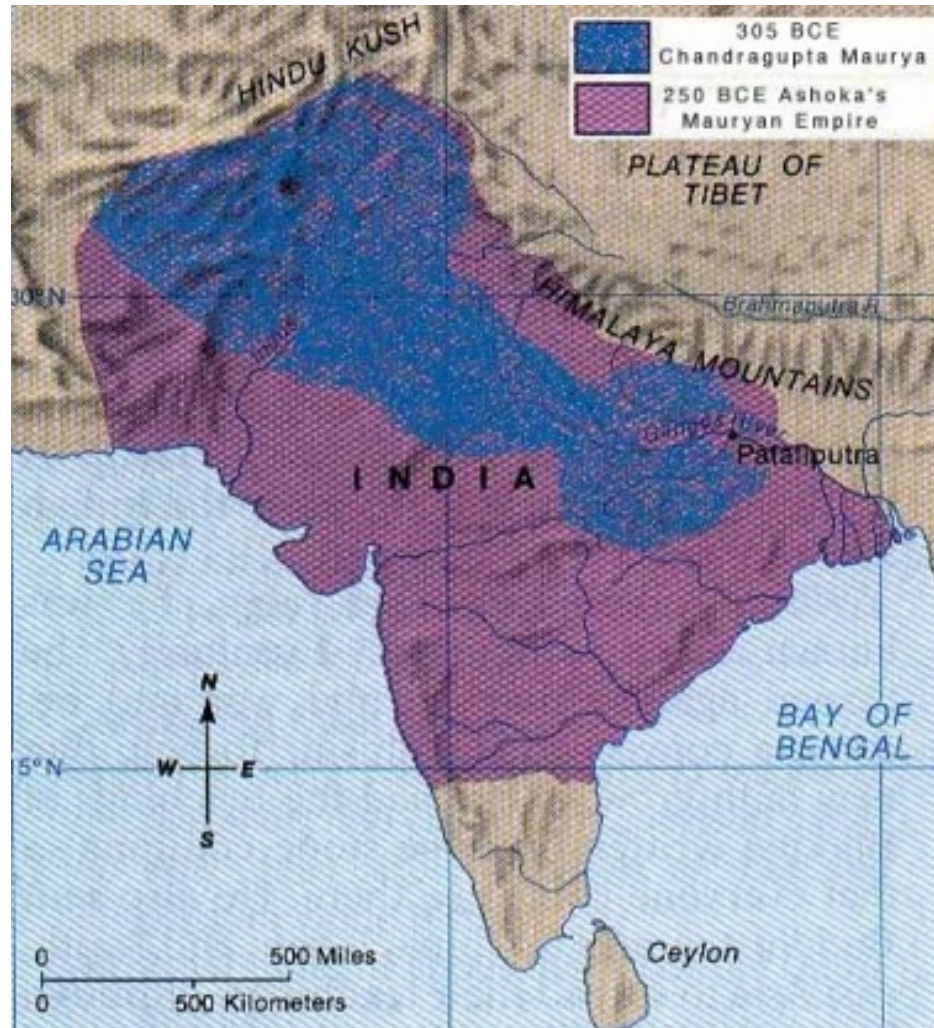
- Ch. M. was advised by one of the world's first political scientists, philosopher Chanakya/Kautilya, whose masterpiece *Arthashastra* (lit., “manual of wealth”) laid down brutal rules for rulers to follow: crush all dissent, spy on citizens, seek constant expansion through endless war.



Mauryan Empire (326-184 BCE) as established by **Chandragupta Maurya** in 322-21 BCE after pushing back the Greek forces in northwest India. Greek texts put the size of his army at **400,000** soldiers.

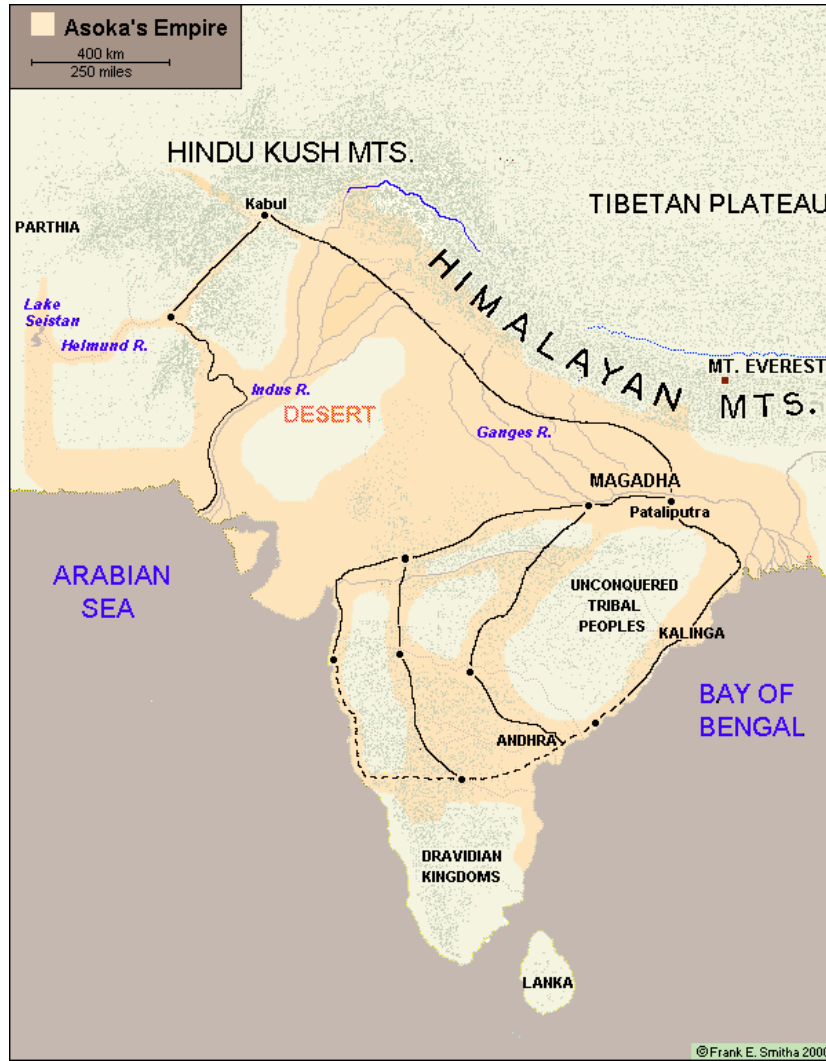


Mauryan Empire (326-184 BCE), reign of Ashoka (269-232 BCE).



Pataliputra

CAPITAL OF Mauryan Empire, EST. POP. 400,000, POSSIBLY LARGEST CITY IN WORLD AT TIME



Ruins of Pataliputra



ELEGANT ARCHITECTURE of Pataliputra



The Rise of Buddhism During the Mauryan Dynasty

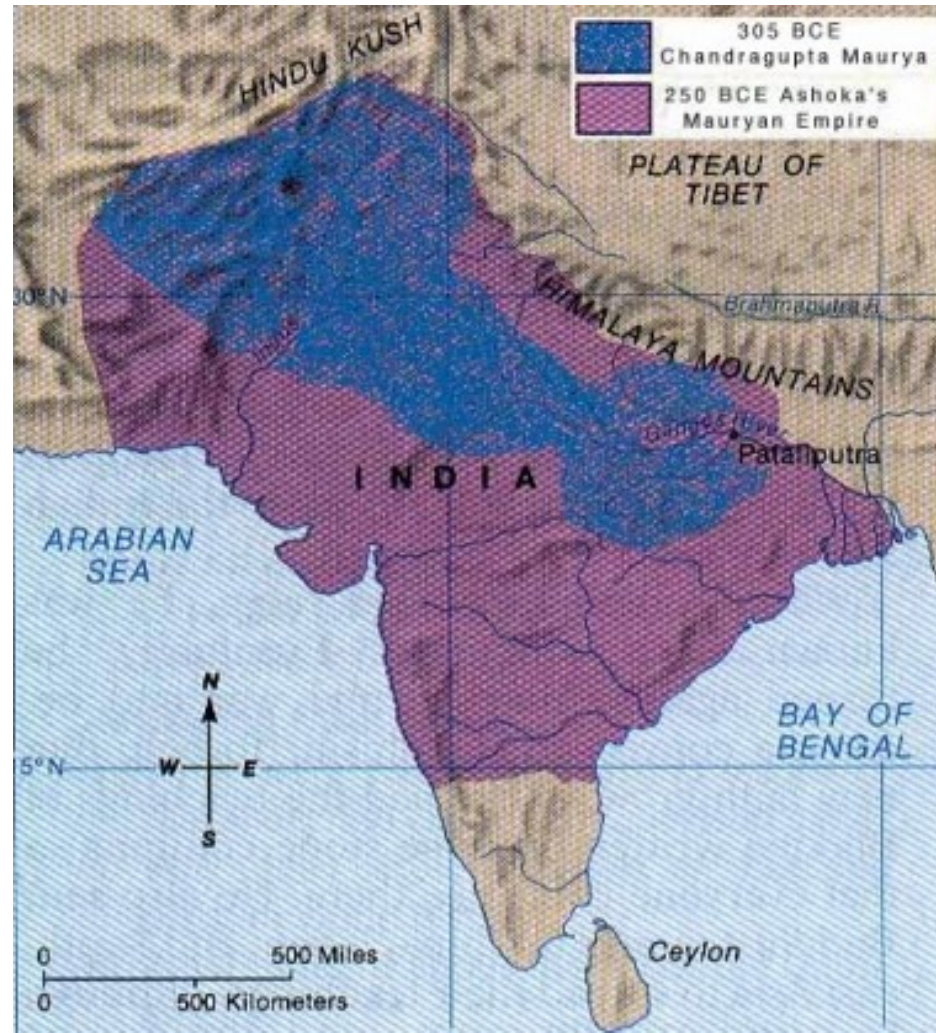
- Depending on how we date the original, historical Buddha (real person!), Buddhism first developed in 5th or 4th century as both a descendant and rival of Hinduism
- The Buddha studied with many spiritual leaders with different ideas and practices, showing variety of
- He finally worked out his own “middle path” way of spiritual discipline and liberation, rejecting key Hindu concepts such as *atman* (eternal self or soul) and caste, while keeping karma and reincarnation (samsara).
- B. became popular



Ashoka's PATH TO BUDDHISM

- Ashoka's life-story is truly fascinating. He began life as a typical Indian Hindu king, a *kshatriya* raised on the idea that his duty was to conquer and that war was glorious.
- However, after an especially bloody war against the kingdom of Kalinga in which he massacred tens, perhaps hundreds of
- Ashoka experienced a deep revulsion against brutality of war and the role he had played in mass murder.
- He changed his life, became a Buddhist and embraced the Buddhist (also Jain) doctrine of non-violence, and now used his position as king for peaceful pursuits, like building animal hospitals and erecting monuments 

Mauryan Empire during reign of Ashoka (269-232 BCE)



Again, a view of the Mauryan Empire at its maximum extent under Ashoka



Ashoka's "CAPITALS"

(pillars with buddhist inscriptions)



An Edict of Ashoka

Ashoka had “edicts” (royal decrees) inscribed on rocks and on metal pillars across Mauryan India. Here is one explaining his conversion to Buddhism and rejection of war and violence.

“When the king of gracious bearing and Beloved of the Gods had been consecrated eight years, Kalinga was conquered. 150,000 were taken captive, 100,000 were killed, and many more died. After the taking of Kalinga, the Beloved of the Gods [Ashoka] began to follow righteousness, to love righteousness, to give instructions in righteousness.

“When an unconquered country is conquered, peoples are killed... This, the Beloved of the Gods finds very pitiful and grievous...If anyone does him wrong, it will be forgiven as far as it can be forgiven...The Beloved of the Gods considers that the greatest of all victories is the victory of righteousness.”

Ashoka’ royal seal is on the flag of India today, tribute to how much he is respected as one of India’s greatest leaders across its long history.



The image shows the national flag of India, which consists of three horizontal stripes of equal width: saffron at the top, white in the middle, and green at the bottom. In the center of the white stripe is a navy blue wheel with 24 spokes, known as the Ashoka Chakra.

All About the Buddha

563-480 BCE Life of Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, while under Bodhi tree, meditating, by evil god Mara, who offers him. According to legend, he is born, prince of the Sakya kingdom in N. India, grows up in luxury, sex etc., without moving Buddha: like sick man, temptation of desires by Satan, but older, may be source of this part of legend story. Buddha lived on 45 years after his Enlightenment, teaching his philosophy and forming first Sangha (community of monks). His sermons collected as *Sutras* and his rules for monks became the *Vinaya*. At first did not allow women into Sangha, but finally relented. Died from bad food. asceticism, avoiding extremes of self-starvation or self-indulgence. Final words: **"Work out your own salvation with diligence."**



Basic Teachings of Buddhism

The Buddha did NOT believe in:

1. Ritual Sacrifice
2. Gods or supernatural beings
3. The Afterlife and the Supernatural
4. Eternal, unchanging *Brahman* or *Atman*

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The Buddha DID believe in:

5. Karma + reincarnation
6. Higher levels of consciousness
7. Liberation through self-discipline and self-effort
8. Living in monastic community

The Four Noble Truths:

1. Suffering is inevitable
2. Suffering is caused by desire and by ignorance, which keep us trapped in reincarnation
3. Suffering can be overcome by eliminating its cause
4. The Eightfold Buddhist path is the way to eliminate desire and ignorance. The Path involves control of behavior, thoughts, emotions, and concentrated meditation to still the mind and realize deeper nature of reality.

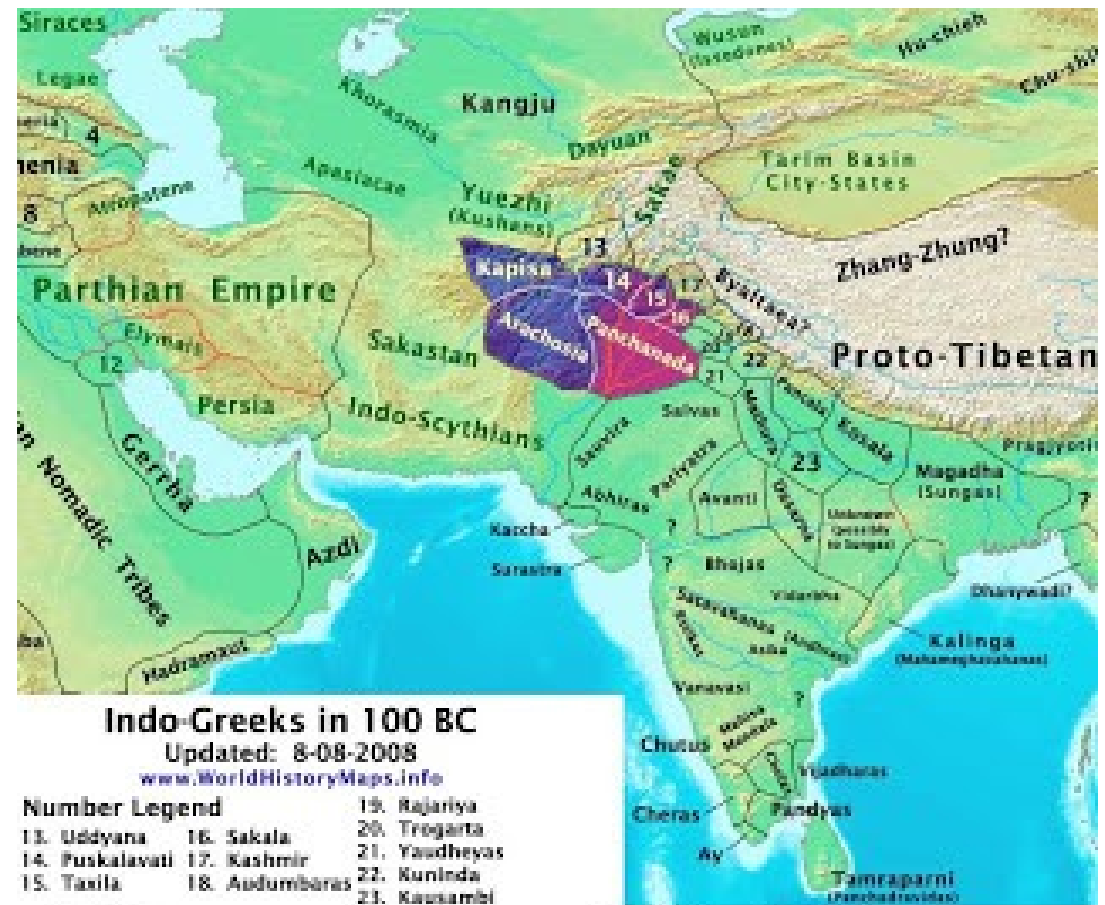
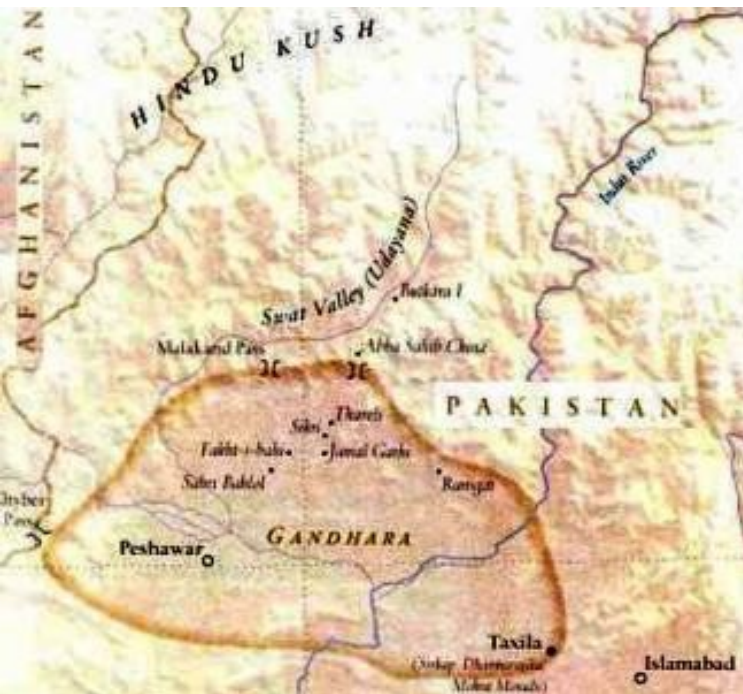


Rulers of the **Mauryan Dynasty**, founded by **Chandragupta Maurya** in 322 BCE, pushing back Alexander's Greek forces in northwest India. Greek texts put size of his army at **400,000** soldiers.

Chandragupta	322-297 BCE
<u>Bindusara</u>	297-272/268 BCE
<u>Ashoka</u>	272/268-232 BCE
<u>Dasharatha</u>	232-224 BCE
<u>Samprati</u>	224-215 BCE
<u>Shalishuka</u>	215-202 BCE
<u>Devavarman</u>	202-195 BCE
<u>Shatadhanvan</u>	195-187 BCE
<u>Brihadratha</u>	187-180 BCE



Gandhara: Greek-influenced area of India (modern Pakistan), due to conquests of Alexander the Great, during and after Mauryan Empire



Talesman's Atlas of World History



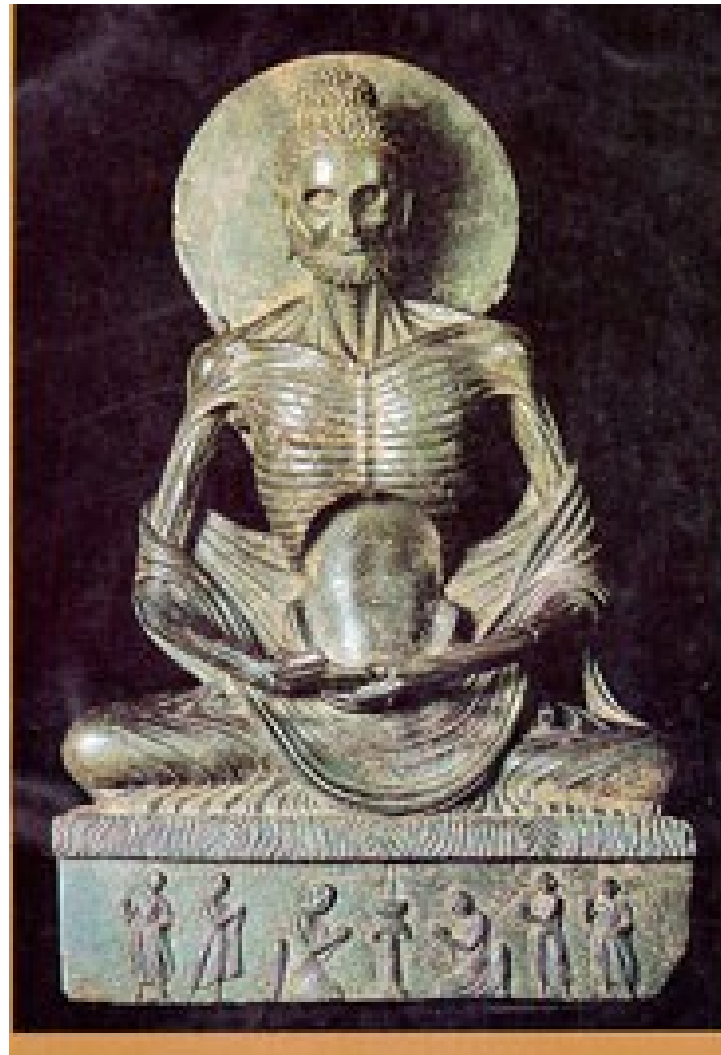
Buddha: Gandhara STYLE



Gandhara Art: **Sitting Buddha**



Gandhara Art: **Fasting Buddha**



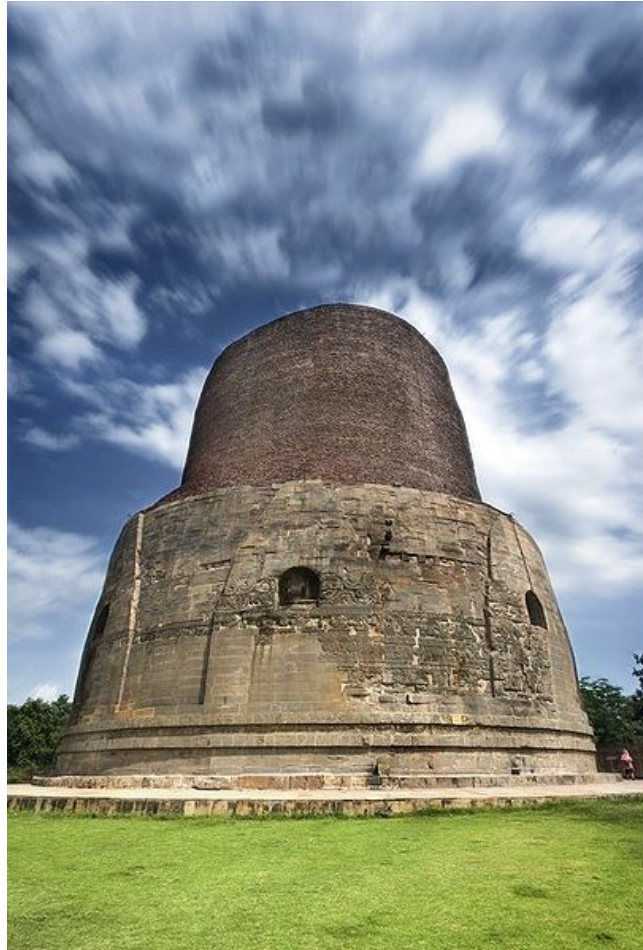
Gandhara Art: Head of Buddha



Gandhara Art: **Death of Buddha**



Dhamekh, a *Stupa* (reliquary mound for Buddhist relics) at Sarnath, India



Wall of Dhamekh Stupa



Stupa at Kushinagar, marking spot where the Buddha was cremated



Stages/Types of Buddhism I:

Theravada

The Buddha's teachings, called the *Sasana*, were supported by the people (with a sherry) and would be taken on by Buddhist monks, spreading progress; Thailand, Burma, Cambodia, Laos and Sri Lanka.

Monks chant Buddhist scriptures (*Sutras*) and study Buddhist or nun, also known as *Dhamma* Sangha.

Buddhist *Sasana* of Faith/Greed devotion as the 'Three Jewels' lay Buddhist worshipped Buddha like god, and *Stupas*, tombs of

- Buddha relics became places of worship.

This set stage for Mahayana Buddhism to develop c. 100 BCE.

I take refuge in the Dharma (the teachings of the Buddha.).

- **I take refuge in the Sangha (Bud. monastic community).**



Stages/Types of Buddhism II:

Mahayana

Mahayana Buddhism is more mythological than Theravada, but believed in worship of multiple Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, much like Hindu gods. Ordinary people could achieve enlightenment without joining a monastery.

Two meanings of *Bodhisattva*:

Mahayana could easily blend with local religions, take in native gods/goddesses as Bodhisattvas.

1. A person who takes vow to work for enlightenment of all living beings, postpone one's own

Mahayana became dominant form of Buddhism in China, Korea, Japan; related form *Vajrayana* in Tibet.

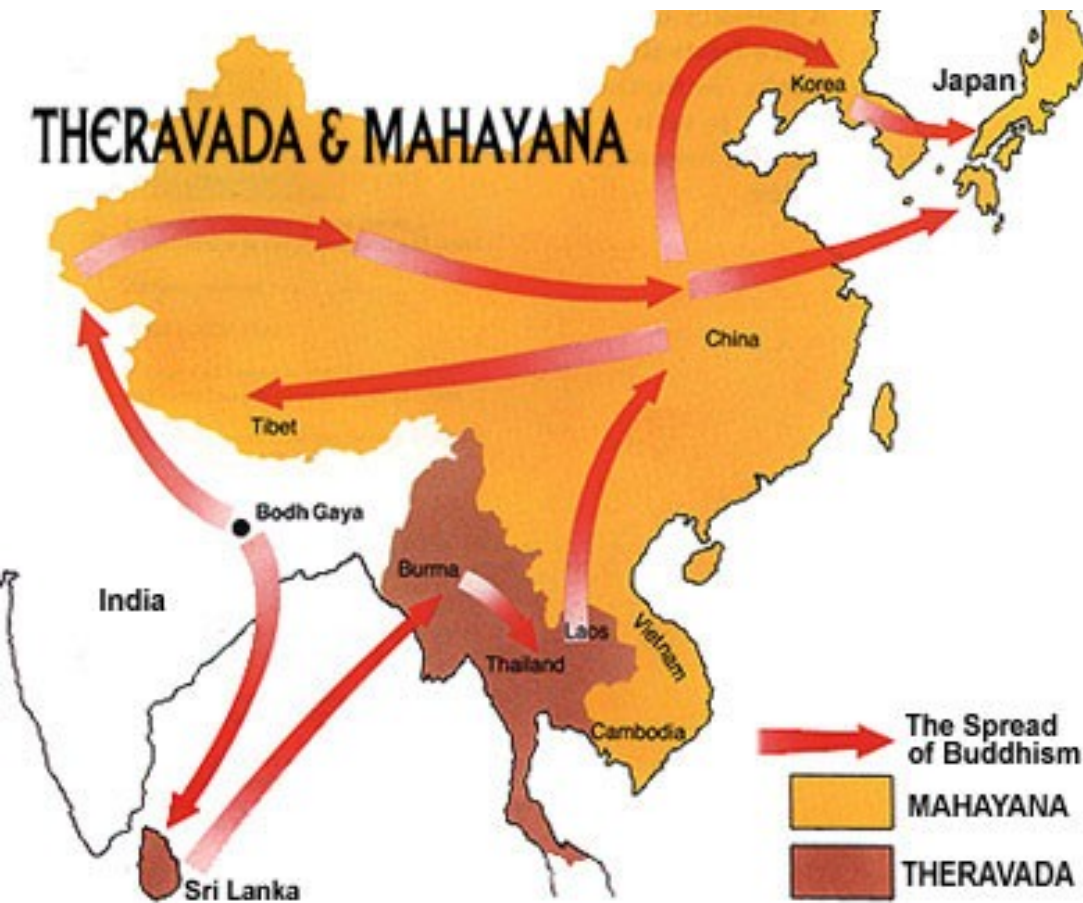
2. Supernatural being who also strives to help others

In Mahayana, anyone can take vow and become Bodhisattva, while also praying to divine Bodhisattvas for aid



Two Main Branches of Buddhism: Theravada and Mahayana*

(MAHAYANA INCLUDES *Zen)



- Theravada, the older branch of Buddhism, became dominant in Sri Lanka & Southeast Asia.
- Mahayana flourished in Tibet, China, Korea and Japan. Merging with Taoism, it became *Chan* Buddhism in China, *Seon* in Korea, and *Zen* in Japan



Kushana Empire (40-220 CE)



- After collapse of Mauryan Empire c. 180 BCE, India returned to variety of smaller kingdoms, until waves of Central Asian invaders took power in Greek-influenced NW region and established Kushana Empire.
- Invading soldiers were integrated into the caste structure as *kshatriyas*, and also



Gold coin with image of KUSHANA
EMPEROR Kanishka, in heavy armor, holding a
spear in one hand, making a sacrifice with the
other, flames rising from his shoulders (in a good
way.).



- Writing on coin is in modified Greek script, showing **Greco-Bactrian** influence. Other coins from his reign show Iranian and Sumerian deities along with Greek and Indian ones, a true Silk Road mix of religions and cultures from across a vast domain. Got diversity? Hell yes!



South India:

Beyond the Mauryan and Kushana Empires

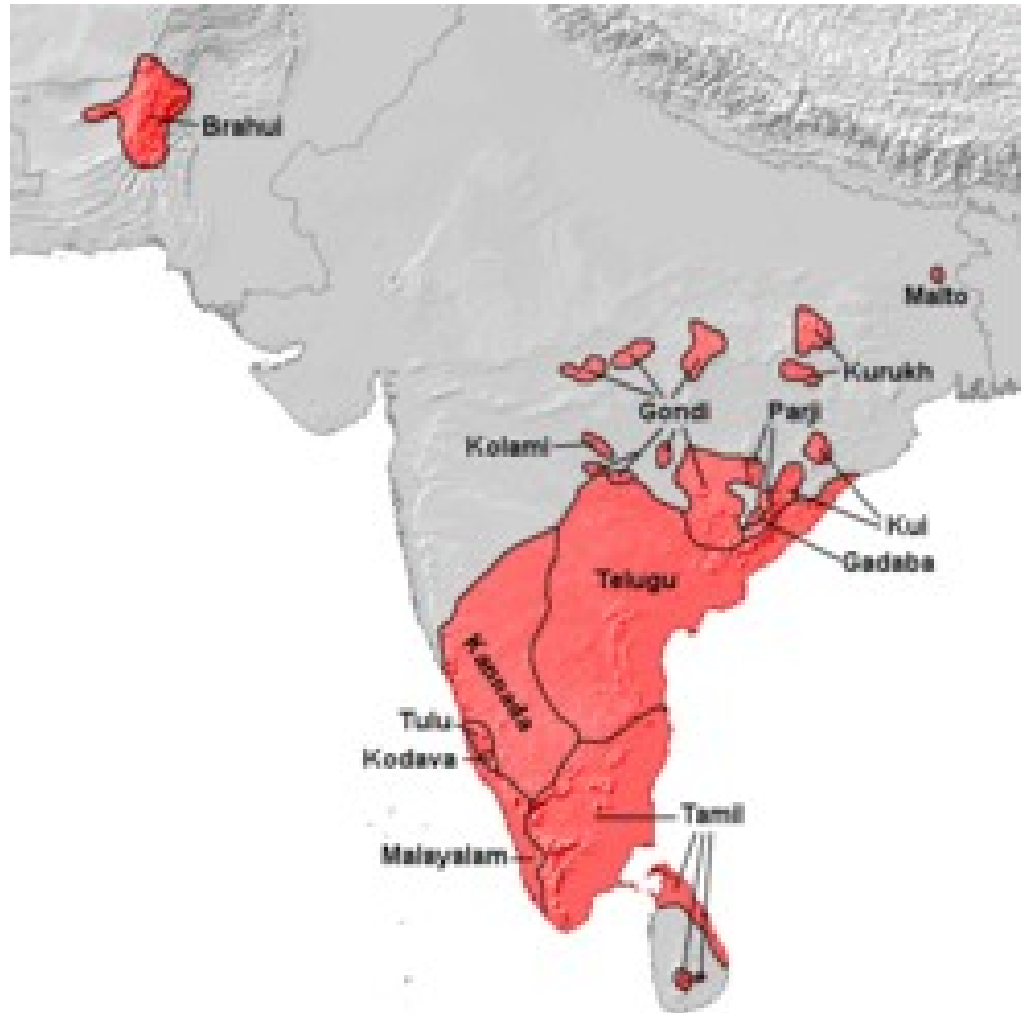


Tamil writing system

அ	ஆ	இ	ஈ	உ	ஊ
a	ā	i	ī	u	ū
எ	ஏ	ஐ	ஒ	ஓ	ஔ
e	ē	ai	o	ō	au
க	ங	ச	ஞ	ட	ண
ka	ṅa	ca	ña	ṭa	ṇa
த	ந	ப	ம	ய	ர
ta	na	pa	ma	ya	ra
ல	வ	ழ	ள	ற	ன
la	va	ṣa	ḷa	ṛa	ṇa
ஐ	ஸ	ஷ	ஹ	க்ஷ	ஸ்ரீ
ja	ṣa	śa	ha	kśa	sri



Area of Dravidian languages in India



Chola Empire circa 1150, Showing main trade route from China



Medieval Asia Timeline

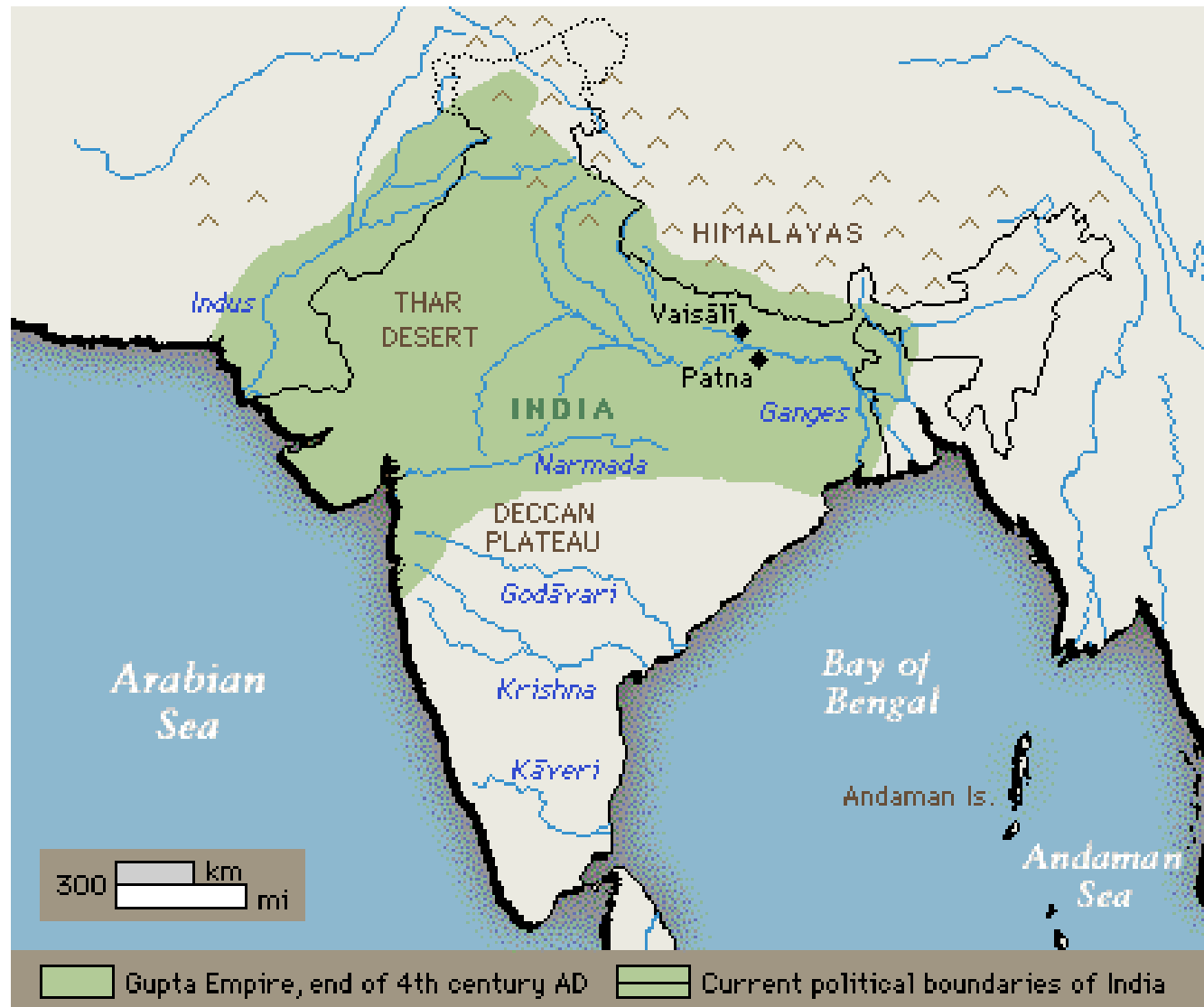
- **China:**
- **206 BCE - 220 CE: Qin Dynasty** Classical Chinese culture, Buddhism becomes popular, esp. "Pure Land" sect.
- **515:** Attacks of the *Huna* (the Huns) in NW India causes
- **589-618: Sui Dynasty** briefly restores centralized state.
- **618-907: Tang Dynasty** Vastly restores Great Kingdom, examination system, unified law code, landscape painting.
- **788-820:** Life of **Shankara**, greatest Hindu philosopher.
- **960-1279: Song Dynasty** Population doubles, Foreign trade
- **960-1279:** Muslim invasions from Afghanistan by Mahmud
- **1206-1526: Delhi Sultanate**, Muslim state in NW India
- **1279-1368: Yuan Dynasty.**



Gupta Empire in northern India, end of 4th century CE



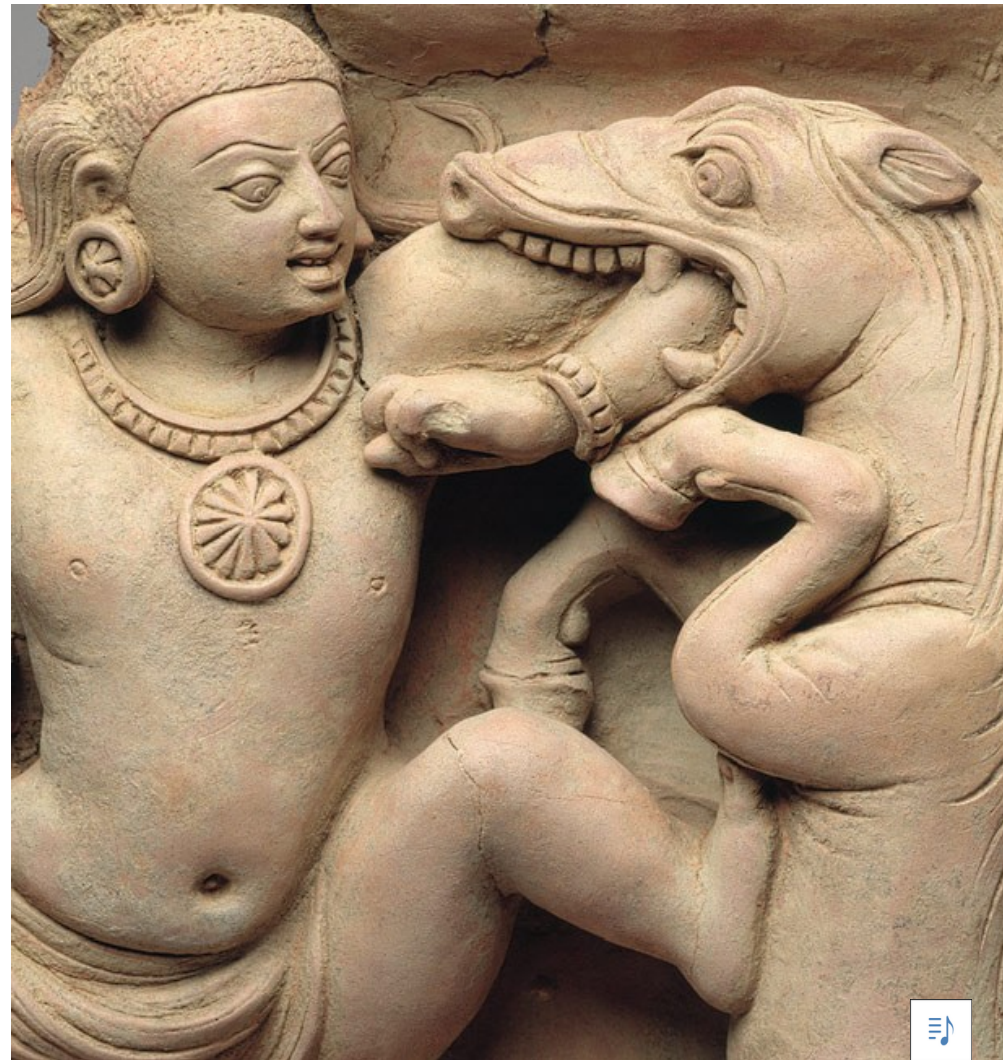
Gupta Empire (320-550 CE)



Gupta period images of Buddha and Hindu god Vishnu



Krishna slaying a horse demon. Gupta period temple art



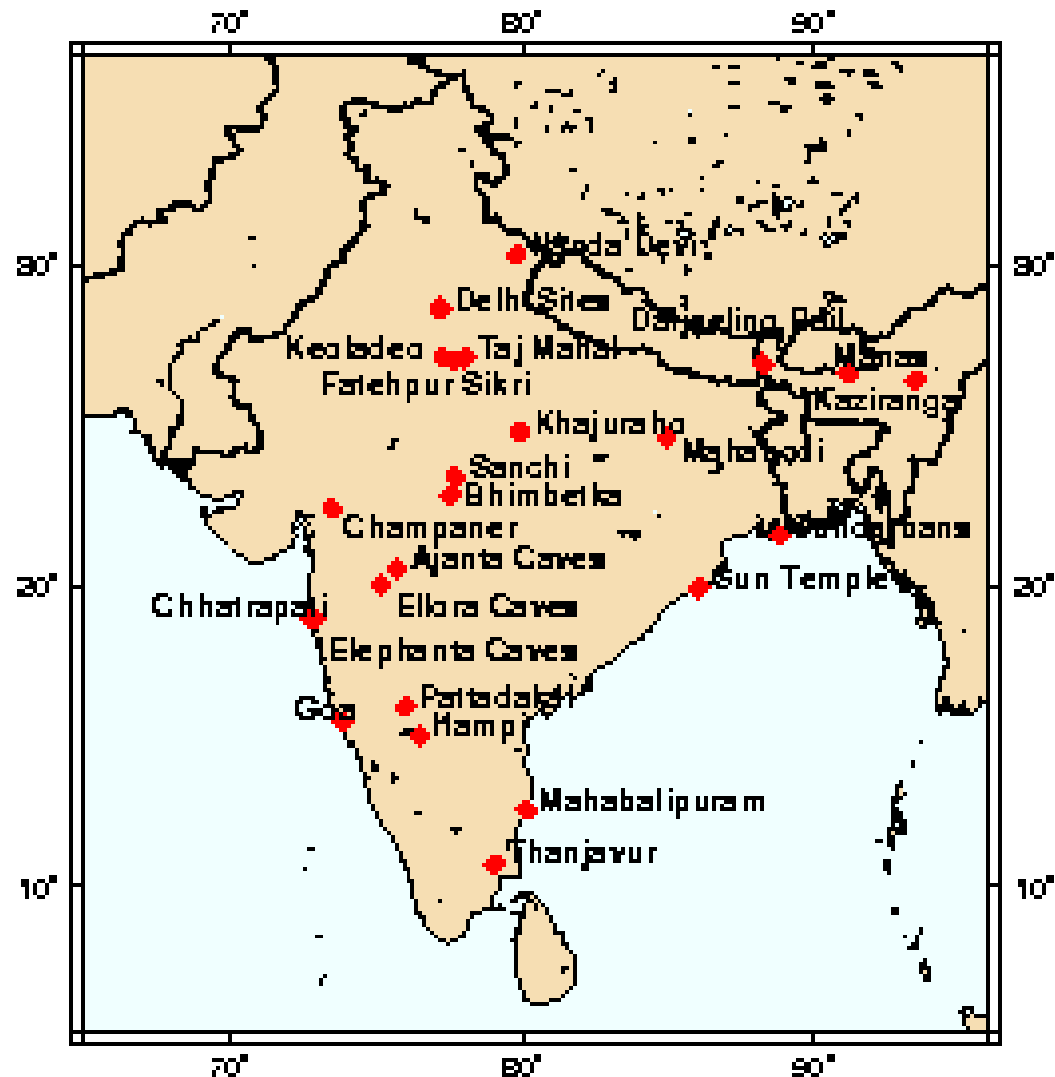
Gupta period sculpture of a scene from the Hindu epic ***The Ramayana***



Gupta coins representing the Emperor Chandragupta II



Map showing Ajanta and Ellora, sites of spectacular cave temple art



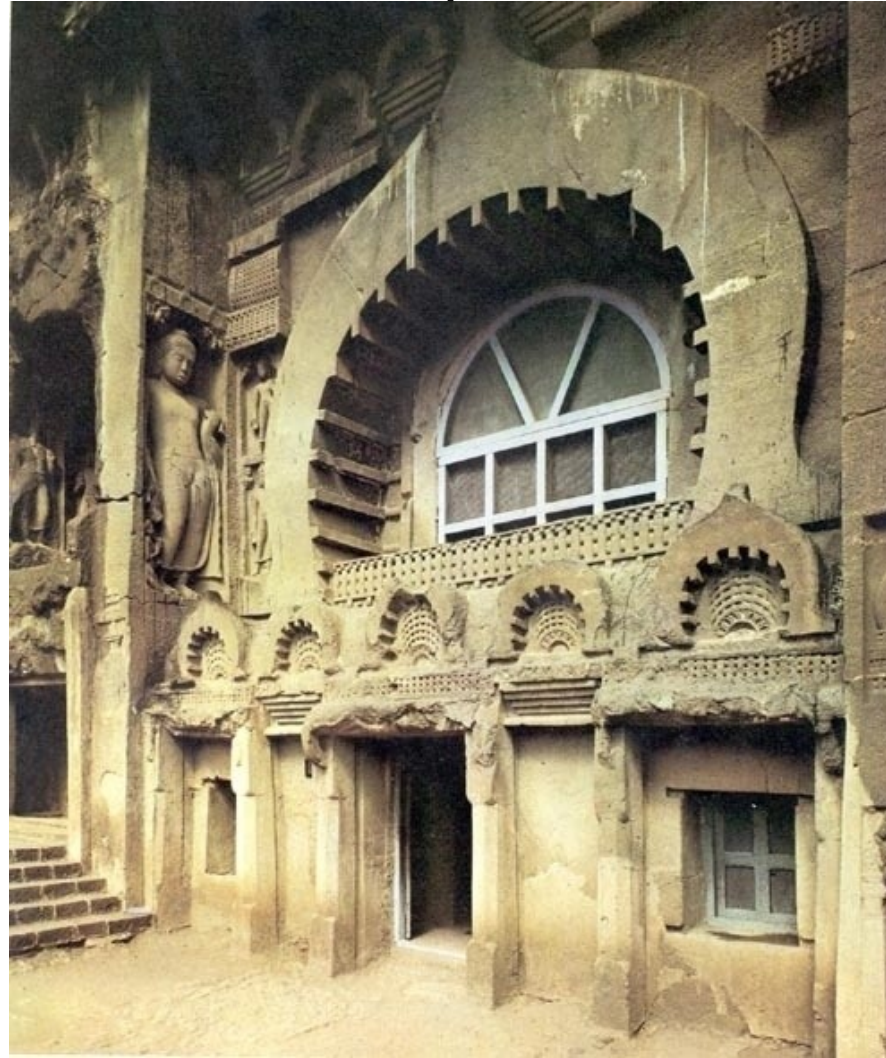
View of Ajanta Caves from a distance



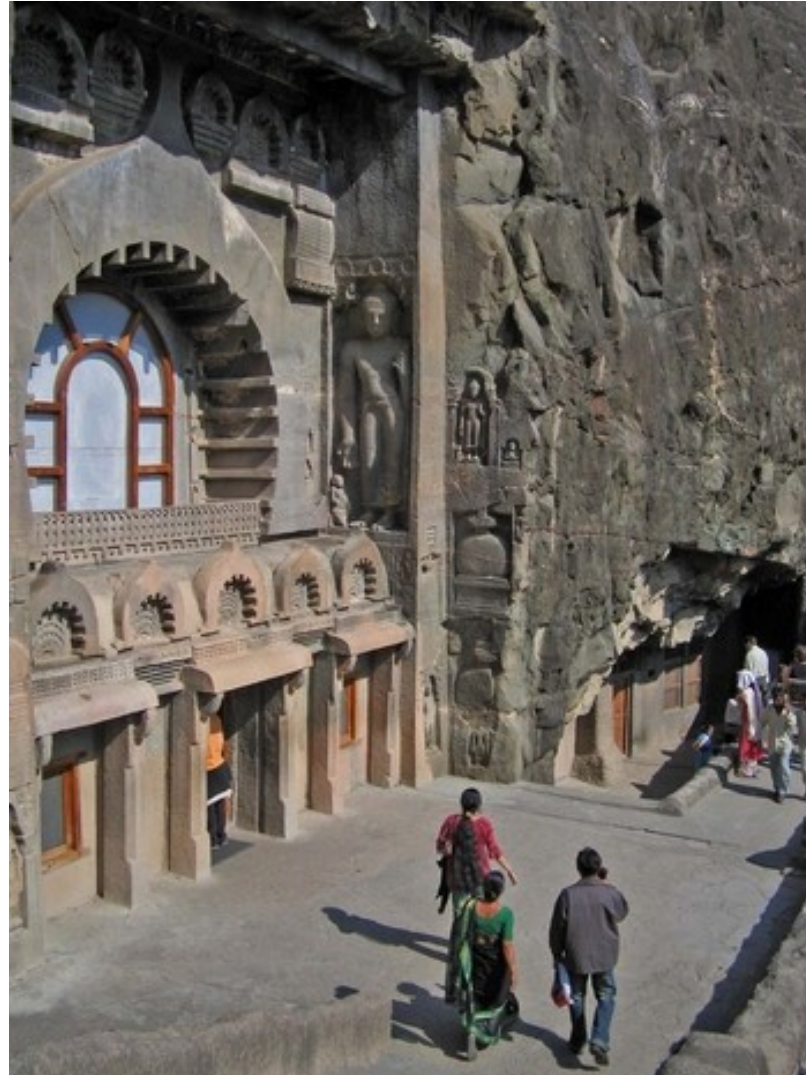
Exterior view, Ajanta cave monastery



Entry to Buddhist caves at Ajanta, near Bombay in India. Caves were carved out to create monasteries, temples, and art by Buddhist monks in late Gupta era (5th-6th c.)



Visitors enter Ajanta



Wall painting at Ajanta, telling tale of King and Queen. 5th or 6th century CE.



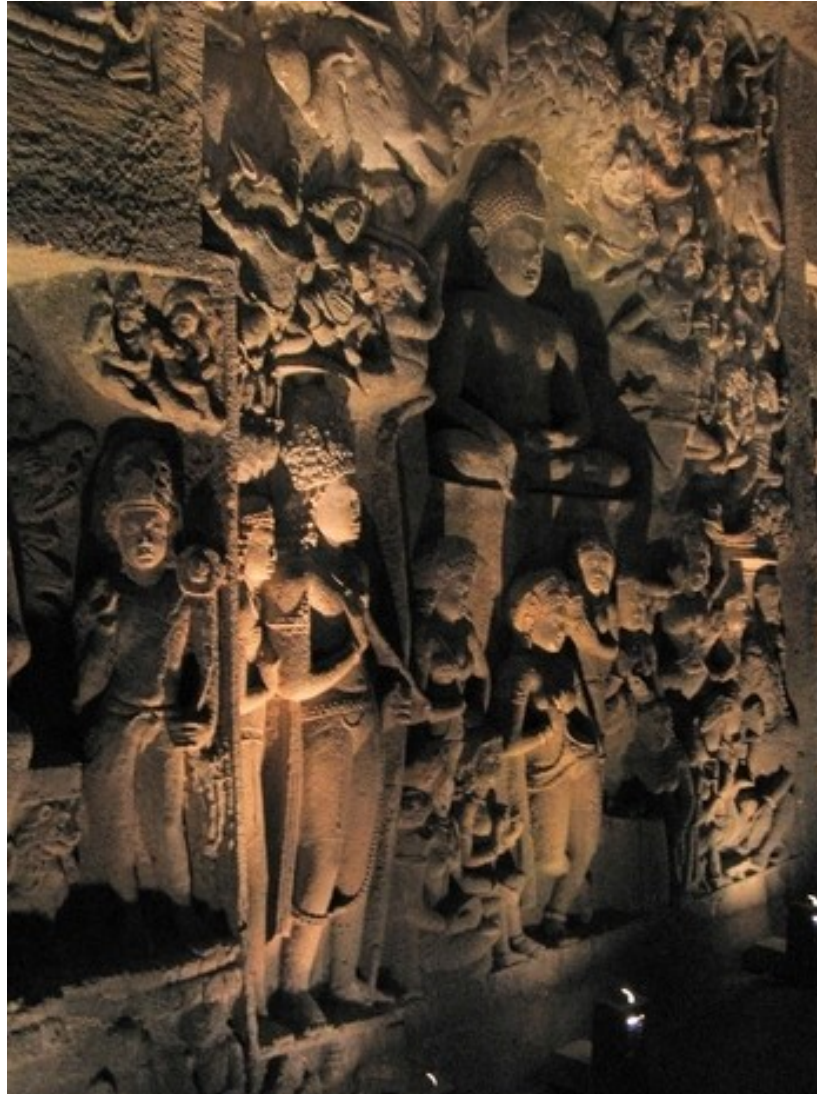
Ajanta painting, Buddha on Lotus Throne



Ajanta painting of Buddha and his first disciple



Buddhist sculpture at Ajanta



Prayer hall, carved in Ajanta cave.
Object in center is *stupa* (tomb for
relics of the Buddha).



Massive interior pillars at Ajanta



Statue of sleeping Buddha



People praying before the Stupa



Cave temple and monastery at Ellora



Ellora is another site with religious art from the Gupta period. It is in the same region as Ajanta. It has Hindu, Jain and Buddhist art and temples. This is a Hindu temple sculpture of Shiva and his wife Parvati.



Cave sculpture of Shiva and his wife Parvati, with the demon Ravana below their throne.



Elephant sculpture at Ellora



The most famous Hindu structure in the Ellora complex is the **temple of Kailasha**, dedicated to Shiva. It is meant to resemble the mountain Kailasha in N. India, where Shiva is said to live.



Another view of **Kailasha Temple**: twice as large as the Parthenon, the largest temple in classical Greece



GREAT Empire OR WHAT? GUPTA!! (320-515 CE)



Indian-Hindu kingdoms and influence into Southeast Asia

